

**Clark County Comprehensive Plan Update
RESPONSE TO DEIS COMMENTS
Position Statement 2,
ON THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE**

RCW 36.70A.110(2) requires that the size of urban growth areas within counties shall be based on the 20-year population forecast developed by the State Office of Financial Management (OFM). OFM provides counties with a high population growth series for 20-years in five year increments, a low population growth series and an intermediate population growth series. OFM considers the intermediate forecast the most probable. Selection anywhere within the range is a policy option of counties.

The Year 2000 US Census-based forecast provided to Clark County by OFM suggests the following total population range for Clark County for the years 2020 and 2025:

<u>OFM Series</u>	<u>2020 Population</u>	<u>2025 Population</u>
Intermediate	509,876	544,809
Low	453,280	473,984
High	571,061	621,763

Applying the assumptions the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to use in July 2003, including the Proposed Comprehensive Plan Map 2003 which added land to urban growth areas, estimated population capacity of the county in 2023 is 534,191 people. This compares very favorably with the intermediate population series provided by OFM.

Among the planning assumptions the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to use was a 90%/10% urban/rural population split for the additional growth. The rural share of population growth was reduced from the 19% utilized in the DEIS. Ms. Bremer's comments express concern about declining capacity to accommodate rural residential growth. The revised assumption should mitigate the rate of absorption of rural residential capacity to some extent.

Several comments cited the growth rate as an issue including:

- James Howsley
- Jerry Olson
- City of Vancouver
- Friends of Clark County
- LeAnne Bremer on behalf of Frank Kanekoa
- LeAnne Bremer on behalf of the McDonald Living Trust
- LeAnne Bremer on behalf of Harriet Jenkins Trust
- Steve Hornstein on behalf of Pacific Rock Products
- Steve Hornstein on behalf of Mike Bowyer
- Steve Hornstein on behalf of Rosemary Parker
- Scott Walstra/Eric Hovee on behalf of the Responsible Growth Forum
- Matt Lewis on behalf of the Building Industry Association of Southwest Washington
- Carl Dugger on behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Brent Grening on behalf of the Port of Ridgefield